



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

22 August 2024

Original: English

**Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa**

Ninth session

Addis Ababa, 30 October–1 November 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Statistical programme of the Economic Commission for Africa:
statutory issues**

Proposed programme plan for 2025 under subprogramme 4, Data and statistics

I. Objective

1. The objective of subprogramme 4, Data and statistics, is to strengthen the production, dissemination and use of credible data, statistics and geospatial information at the national, regional and global levels for evidence-based policymaking and decision-making.

II. Strategy

2. To contribute to the objective of the subprogramme, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will:

(a) Support African national statistical systems in transforming their data governance and management methods by digitalizing the collection, compilation and dissemination of data for statistical purposes, including censuses and civil registration systems, and provide technical assistance and training in the design and implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics and national spatial data infrastructure with related integrated geospatial information frameworks;

(b) Maintain and regularly update publicly accessible databases, providing harmonized data, statistics and geospatial information disaggregated by location on such topics as African economies, demographics, social indicators, the environment, and other statistics needed for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union;

(c) Provide training and make platforms available for the exchange of best practices among its members and their respective national statistical agencies;

* E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/1/Rev.1.



(d) Integrate policy advice and sustained capacity-building activities on data, statistics and geospatial information to support its members in enhancing the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(e) Enhance communication with its members on the benefits of using statistics and geospatial information.

3. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) Improved capacity, resilience and efficiency of national statistical systems, including greater uptake of innovative tools and technologies to collect comparable statistics at various levels of disaggregation, and improved statistical operations, including in censuses, surveys, the processing and analysis of administrative data and the dissemination of up-to-date data;

(b) Improved uptake of geospatial information management, closer collaboration between components and stakeholders of the national spatial-data infrastructure, and better-integrated geospatial information frameworks;

(c) Enhanced monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

III. Programme performance in 2023

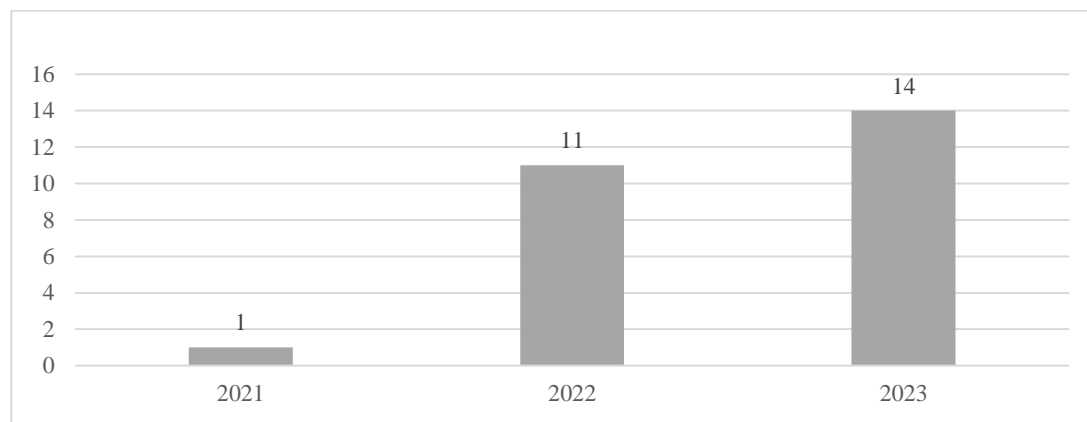
Census improvements driven by digital applications

4. The implementation of digital censuses mitigated the challenges faced by African countries, including the impact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), budgetary constraints and insecurity in some parts of the continent. Digital applications developed under the subprogramme increased the operational efficiency of censuses and allowed census data to be made available about three months after completion of the fieldwork. Such applications have improved the quality of census data and enhanced the potential for geospatial analysis. Countries have deployed devices to improve data collection processes, as well as applications under field monitoring systems, systems to track issues encountered in the field, and project management toolkits for their censuses and have disseminated their results. In 2023, three members of ECA (Namibia, Senegal and Zimbabwe) received support under the subprogramme for conducting digital censuses.

5. Progress towards the aforementioned objective is presented in figure I.

Figure I

Performance measure: number of members of the Economic Commission for Africa that improved the quality and timeliness of censuses through technology (cumulative)



IV. Planned results for 2025

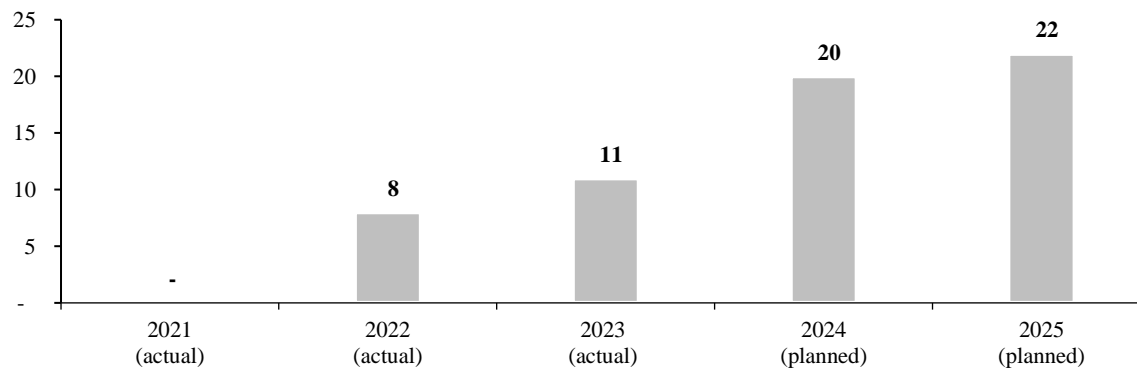
A. Result 1: progress towards digital transformation and the modernization of statistical systems

6. Thanks to the work carried out under the subprogramme, three additional members of ECA (Madagascar, Mozambique and Uganda) implemented the road map on digital transformation and modernized their official statistics in 2023, bringing the cumulative number of countries to have implemented the road map to 11, well above the target of 5 countries.

7. Progress towards the overall objective and towards the target for 2025 are presented in figure II.

Figure II

Performance measure: number of ECA members to have implemented the road map on digital transformation and modernized official statistics (cumulative)



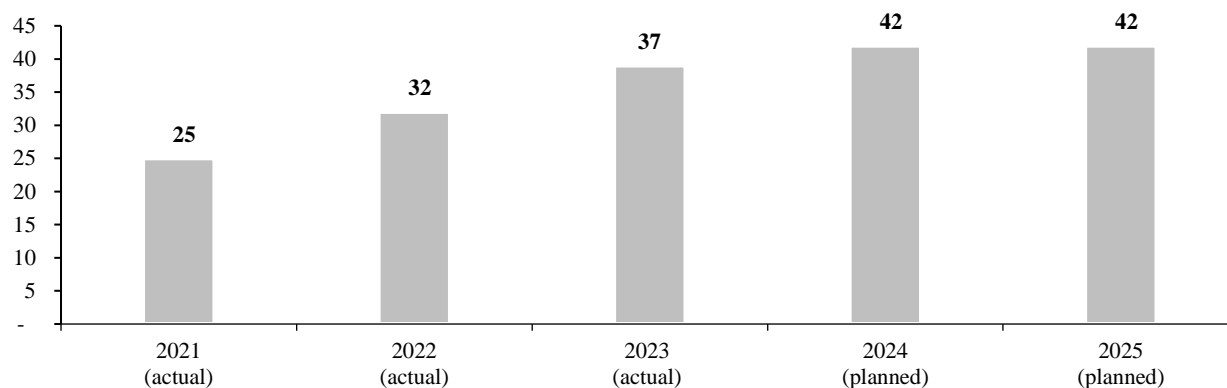
B. Result 2: production and dissemination of comparable economic statistics by members of the Commission

8. Thanks to the work carried out under the subprogramme, five additional members of ECA (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Nigeria and Senegal) have adopted and applied the recommended international standards and methodology on economic statistics. This brought the cumulative total to 37, falling short of the planned target of 39. The target was not met because it took considerable time to adopt and implement the 2008 System of National Accounts in the five countries mentioned above, since they had to wait for the completion of the research and global consultation phases. As a result, ECA was unable to cover other members under the subprogramme.

9. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure III).

Figure III

Performance measure: number of members of the Economic Commission for Africa to have adopted and applied the recommended international standards and methodology (2008 System of National Accounts and extensions) in economic statistics (cumulative)



C. Result 3: progress towards integrated statistical and geospatial information frameworks

10. The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework provides a standardized approach for integrating statistical and geospatial information, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of social, economic and environmental phenomena. It is anchored in the overarching Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, which provides the coordination and standards necessary to deliver integrated geospatial information. The subprogramme has been supporting members of ECA as they adopt strategic pathways in the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to improve their national statistical frameworks and address the challenges they face in the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data.

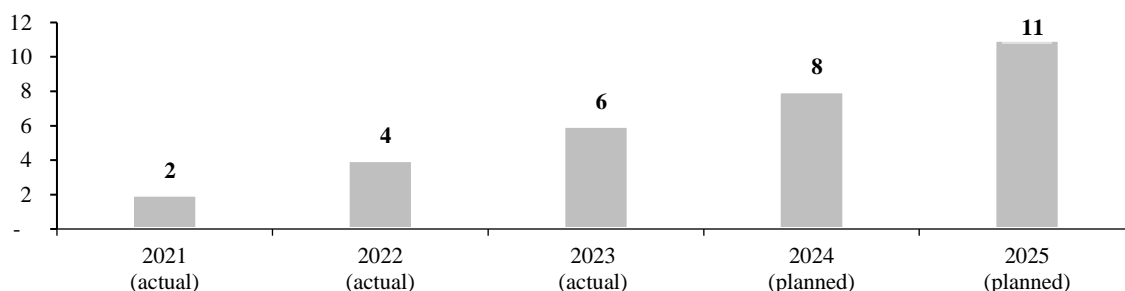
11. From its implementation of the subprogramme, ECA learned that countries needed support in collecting data at a level of granularity that was sufficient for the data to be analysed and applied to evidence-based policymaking. They also needed support in harmonizing their methodologies so that they would be able to adopt the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. In applying these lessons, ECA will support its members in using emerging technologies to collect and map geospatial

data at the subnational level, in improving their data-collection workflows, including by using volunteered geographic information systems on utilities and infrastructure in urban areas, and in establishing a mechanism to standardize geographic coordinate systems for comparability within and across countries. Its efforts will foster the integration of statistical and geospatial data and the universal availability of all data.

12. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure IV and the table).

Figure IV

Performance measure: number of members of the Economic Commission for Africa that have adopted and applied at least one of the strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (cumulative)



Deliverables

13. The table lists all the deliverables for the subprogramme.

Table

Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Number of parliamentary documents on the following topics:				
Statistical capacity development to the Statistical Commission for Africa at its eighth session	–	–	1	–
Progress in population and housing censuses to the Statistical Commission for Africa at its seventh and eighth session	–	–	1	–
State of a gender perspective and social development statistics to the Statistical Commission for Africa at its seventh and eighth session	–	–	1	–
Integration of geospatial and statistical data to the Statistical Commission for Africa at its seventh and eighth session	1	1	1	–
Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts to the Statistical Commission for Africa at its seventh and eighth session	–	–	1	–
Implementation of civil registration and vital statistics to the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration	1	1	1	1
Geospatial information management to the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa at its ninth, tenth and eleventh meetings	1	1	1	1
Total, parliamentary documents	3	3	7	2
Number of three-hour meetings for which substantive services were provided for the following entities				
Statistical Commission for Africa	–	–	1	–
Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration	8		4	4
Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa	8	8	8	8

Advisory expert group on national accounts	–	–	1	1
Total, three-hour meetings	16	8	14	13
Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Number of field and technical cooperation projects related to the following matters				
Sectoral statistics, including agricultural, health, energy and employment statistics	3	1	2	1
Data warehouse	–	–	1	1
Environmental-economic accounting initiative	–	–	1	1
Development of supply-use tables, intraregional input-output tables and the trade-in-value-added model	1	1	1	1
Provision of technical assistance to members of ECA on updating and rebasing gross domestic product	1	1	1	1
Support for African countries to participate in the global updating and related testing of the 2008 System of National Accounts programme	1	1	1	1
Consumer price index data collection, compilation and application	1	1	1	1
African programme on a gender perspective and statistics	–	–	1	1
African programme on population and housing censuses	–	–	–	1
Establishment of a digital identity platform for Africa	–	–	1	–
Development and implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with related knowledge infrastructure services and a harmonized geodetic reference frame	3	2	3	2
Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (second phase)	1	1	–	1
Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems	1	1	–	1
Development of a data science campus	1	1	1	1
Support for African countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063	1	1	1	1
Fellowship programme for young African scholars to build their capacities in data and statistics	1	1	1	1
Total, projects	15	12	16	16
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)				
Workshop on a statistical data-exchange system for national statistical offices	5	5	5	5
Training events on statistical leadership for heads and senior experts of national statistical offices and line ministries responsible for the production of statistics	5	5	5	5
Workshop on modernizing statistical systems in Africa for the leaders and managers of national statistical offices	5	5	5	5
Workshop on population and housing censuses and progress towards the 2021 population and housing censuses for experts and managers of national statistical offices and planning commissions	5	4	2	2
Regional workshops on gender statistics for experts in national statistical offices and line ministries	5	2	2	2
Workshops on civil registration and vital statistics for experts of national ministries responsible for the production of civil registration and vital statistics data	5	4	4	4
Workshop on measuring and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to demographic and social statistics for experts in national statistical offices	1	1	–	3
Training events on national accounts, environmental and economic statistics and accounting for national statistical offices and ministries of finance	–	–	15	15
Regional seminars on the consumer price index, agricultural statistics and energy statistics	20	15	20	20

Training workshop on geospatial knowledge infrastructure and fundamental geospatial data sets for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals	10	10	10	5
Workshop on the strategy for the integration of statistical and geospatial information for national mapping agencies and statistical offices	5	5	5	5
Training events on the development of national action plans on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for national mapping agencies	5		5	5
Training events on geospatial knowledge infrastructure with innovative geospatial responses and solutions for a post-pandemic recovery	5	5	5	
Training events on big data and data science for the modernization of the production of economic statistics	–	–	5	5
Advisory expert group meeting on national accounts	1	1	–	1
Technical workshop on environmental statistics	–	–	5	5
Technical workshop on environmental-economic accounting	–	–	5	5
Total, days	77	62	98	92
Publications				
<i>Africa Sustainable Development Report</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ADB Statistics Pocketbook</i>	1	–	1	1
Africa statistics flash: selected socio-economic indicators on Africa	1	1	1	1
Total, publications	3	2	3	3
Technical material (documents)				
African regional geospatial databases, online services and geoportals	1	–	1	1
African atlas of spatial statistics	1	–	1	–
<i>African Statistical Yearbook</i>	1	–	1	1
<i>Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics</i>	–	–	1	1
Total, technical documents	3	–	4	3
Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: technical advice on civil registration and vital statistics, on population and housing censuses planned for members of ECA in 2025 and on Sustainable Development Goal indicators				
Advisory services to regional bodies on statistical coordination				
Technical advice to members of ECA on matters related to digitalization, statistical management and data science				
Technical advice to five members of ECA on geospatial-related matters				
Databases and substantive digital material: ECASStats data portal, providing data from geospatial databases to members of ECA; online applications, services and platforms; and the Africa GeoPortal geographical data portal				
Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information material: Participation in such events as African Statistics Day, the annual Africa Symposium on Statistical Development and other information-dissemination initiatives through outreach programmes and mobile applications				

Symbol: – Nil or negligible.